

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
Minutes
June 3, 2005

Present

Greg Bennett, Chair
Susan Nelson, Vice Chair
Rosie Toy
Andrew Ross
Jack Schubert
Josh Storer

Staff

Joe Whinnery, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works
Jon Katin, Public Works
Lt. Tim Brewer, Police

Visitors

Walt Prichard, Mid-Valley Bike Club
Mark Nay

Absent

Kevin Grant, Ex-Officio ASOSU
George Grosch, City Councilor

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Call Meeting to Order/Introductions	X		
II. Approve May 6, 2005 Minutes			Approved, as corrected.
III. Visitors Comments		X	
IV. Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AIM (August in Motion)/BPAC- Benton County Co-host Picnic• East-West Bike Route Recommendations Across Town• Commission Prioritization of CIP Projects• 9th Street ADA Standards• First Street Stop Signs	X	X X X	Commission recommended presenting a motion to Riverfront Commission to remove stop signs from First Street.
• ODOT- Van Buren Bridge	X		
V. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transportation Maintenance Fee	X		
VI. Information Sharing			Commission moved the July BPAC meeting to Friday, July 8, 2005.

I. Call Meeting to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Greg Bennett and introductions were made.

II. Approve May 6, 2005 Minutes

Page 2, item titled "Crosswalk marking at SE Chapman and 3rd Street , second paragraph, first sentence, the word "ODOT's" should be replaced by "Co-op's".

Page 3, item titled “Information Sharing”, third sentence, the bicyclist was at fault for riding on the sidewalk.

Commissioners Toy and Schubert, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission approve the May 6, 2005 Minutes, as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Visitors Comments

Mark Nay, resident and property owner at 3600 NW Harrison Boulevard, addressed the Commission on the proposed western pedestrian crossing at NW 36th Street and Harrison Boulevard. Mr. Nay’s driveway is very near the intersection of 36th and Harrison. He worked with the City to move the pedestrian crosswalk to the west to make his driveway more accessible for entry. However, when exiting the driveway to the east, it is necessary to back into the crosswalk. The City would install a signal head, which would be tripped by a sensor in Mr. Nay’s driveway, in order to stop oncoming traffic and allow Mr. Nay to exit his driveway.

Mr. Nay questioned the necessity of this crosswalk, given that there will be three crosswalks on Harrison Boulevard at 35th and 36th Streets. He said there is a low volume of pedestrian traffic in this area of Harrison Boulevard and excluding the crosswalk near his driveway would have minimal impact on pedestrians.

Mr. Nay requested the crosswalk be removed and a stop bar be placed at a sufficient distance preceding his driveway to allow for a safe exit. The stop bar would eliminate the need for paving of a portion of his front yard for a hammerhead turn around while facilitating the safety of pedestrians.

Steve Rogers said staff asked Mr. Nay to address the Commission and City Council in person because staff did not feel it was authorized to enact the change Mr. Nay requested. The project bid June 2 but there would be time to affect this change if it were approved. Rogers expects City Council would want a recommendation from the Commission before any action were taken.

Jack Schubert said several members of the Commission should visit the site before any action was taken. Greg Bennett said this issue would be included as a July BPAC agenda item. Rogers said either Michael Tasman, project engineer, or Som Sartnurak, City Traffic Engineer, would attend the July BPAC meeting to address this issue.

IV. Old Business

- **AIM (August in Motion)/BPAC- Benton County Co-host Picnic**

Greg Bennett said he and Sheila Lyons, Chairperson of Benton County Bike Committee, agreed to co-host the County picnic. The picnic is scheduled for August 31 at the Maple Grove Shelter in Avery Park. Joe Whinnery said the City has reserved Thompson Shelter but he will contact Parks & Recreation to determine availability of Maple Grove Shelter. If Maple Grove Shelter is available on August 31, the picnic will be held there. If Maple Grove Shelter is not available August 31, the picnic will be held at Thompson Shelter.

The Commission agreed, without a formal recommendation, to co-host the Benton County picnic.

Rosie Toy said that in July the Commission will select a site downtown to park many bicycles in one parking space to demonstrate how little space bicycles occupy compared to a motor vehicle. She is hoping to convince the *Gazette Times* to take a photograph for publication in its "Entertainer" section. Greg Bennett expressed the hope that some city dignitaries, like the Mayor could be encouraged to join them.

Joe Whinnery said AIM plans to have an event scheduled for every day in August. Susan Christie is the contact person for AIM events. AIM coordinators are hoping to have the calendar of events completed by the end of the first week in July. The calendars could then be printed by the end of the second week in July and distributed prior to August.

- **East-West Bike Route Recommendations Across Town**

Steve Rogers said an East-West bike route is already in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) but there are two problems. First, there are no funds available to alter the signals which would be affected on Monroe Avenue at 3rd Street and 4th Street because they are currently one-way. Putting in two-way bike lanes would require a change to two-way signals. Second, there is funding available to offset lost parking but no strategy to implement the necessary changes. Rogers said there are no monies available for new street fund projects unless they are SDC-related in the street fund. A grant would be needed to fund the alteration of signals. Staff would need to formulate a strategy for overcoming loss of parking.

Greg Bennett said before applying for a grant, the BPAC needs to work with the Downtown Parking Commission. Rogers said staff has some work to do in determining what ODOT will accept for parameters in a grant proposal.

Jack Schubert said he wants the Commission to advocate the completion of a multi-level parking garage, which has been planned for downtown. He said downtown merchants should be involved in the promotion.

Josh Storer said back-in diagonal parking downtown should be considered. Second Street would be ideal for this type of parking.

Greg Bennett asked Joe Whinnery to collect the information compiled by former BPAC staff member Greg Wilson and present the information to the Commission. Bennett will then advise the Downtown Parking Commission (DPC) that BPAC wants DPC's input and subsequent proposal. Bennett said some preliminary work should be done with an ODOT representative. Joe Whinnery and Steve Rogers agreed to work on this.

- **Commission Prioritization of CIP Projects**

Joe Whinnery distributed copies of a list of current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects. Whinnery said staff would soon provide information to Commission members to be used to prioritize CIP projects.

Commission members will be asked to individually rank the five highest priority proposed CIP projects prior to the July BPAC meeting and be prepared to advocate for the projects. An additional five projects should be identified to be considered “second-tier priority” projects.

Jack Schubert suggested the Commission meet outside the context of its regular monthly meeting to discuss its possible recommendations, but no date was set.

- **9th Street ADA Standards**

Staff will do an audit to determine if the 9th Street and Circle Boulevard intersection is up to current ADA standards and report to the Commission at the July meeting.

- **First Street Stop Signs**

Steve Rogers recommended to the Riverfront Commission to consider removing the stop signs on First Street. There was no reaction from the Riverfront Commission to Rogers’ recommendation. If the Bike and Pedestrian Commission wanted to make a formal recommendation to remove the stop signs, the Commission Chair could appear before the Riverfront Commission. If both the Riverfront Commission and BPAC recommend the removal, a traffic order would be executed to remove the stop signs. City Manager, City Council would be informed of the impending action. If there were no Council objections, the traffic order would be completed. Tim Brewer agreed to attend the Riverfront Commission meeting with Bennett if his schedule allows. Rogers offered the services of a Public Works staff member as well, if needed.

Commissioners Schubert and Storer, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission endorse removing the stop signs on First Street, with the exception of the stop sign on First Street and Van Buren. The Commission Chair will appear before the Riverfront Commission to formally endorse the recommendation. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Rosie Toy voting against the motion.

- **ODOT- Van Buren Bridge**

Greg Bennett read a proposed statement regarding the inclusion of complete bike and pedestrian facilities on the replacement bridge, and asked the Commission if the wording was appropriate for a recommendation to be sent to Council on behalf of the Commission. Steve Rogers proposed adding language which explains why bicycle facilities only on the existing bridge are not as good as bicycle facilities on the proposed bridge. Rogers agreed to craft the additional language and provide the Commission with copies of the statement in time to take action at the July Commission meeting.

V. New Business

- **Transportation Maintenance Fee**

Steve Rogers said a task force looked at the Street Fund from a financial standpoint and made two recommendations. The first recommendation was cutting services funded by the Street

Fund and this was done, cutting \$350,000 per year. The second recommendation was to find an additional funding source for the Street Fund revenue. The Highway Fund, which provides for almost 100% of the Street Fund, is not keeping up with the rate of inflation or growth in the community. City Council deferred any action on the matter until the present Council came on board in January, 2005. In March, the present Council developed a list of goals to work on. One of the goals was consideration of a new funding source for street maintenance services, to be done by December, 2005. Recently, a proposed transportation maintenance fee has been taken to Council. Council asked staff to devise a public outreach process which would allow the public to give input to Council regarding the transportation maintenance fee. Over the next two months, June and July, 2005, staff will make presentations to numerous civic organizations and government agencies. There will be several advertised public meetings to gauge citizen input. The input will then be taken to Council to be considered in its decision making. The decision should be made by October or November, 2005.

A transportation maintenance fee is paid by all who use the transportation system. The fee will be levied on water utilities bills but it is not a water surcharge. It is only levied on water bills as a collection method. The fee is a five-year program unless Council were to extend it or change it. It is project based, meaning there are two specific groups of projects which will be completed over the five-year period. The first group is "overlay" projects on arterial and collector streets, at \$150,000 per year. "Overlay" means a partial, not total, reconstruction. The second group is for street reconstruction, at \$250,000 per year. "Reconstruction" means a condition which requires substantially more work beyond an "overlay".

The total budget amount is \$420,000 per year. Of that figure, \$400,000 per year is used for project work and \$20,000 is administrative costs. The \$420,000 figure has been split to recoup 75% of the dollars from residential property, 25% from commercial property. From the residential property portion, it is split based on multi-family and single-family and the trips generated. Single-family homes would pay more than multi-family because they generate more trips. The commercial allocation is based on trips generated. The larger and more busy the business, the more the business would pay.

Bills would be sent out each month. A single-family home would pay about \$1.40 per month. A multi-family home would pay about \$1.00 per month per unit. A large business like Hewlett-Packard would pay about \$135.00 per month.

Greg Bennett asked if there was any way to charge out-of-town users or users at Oregon State University. Rogers said the task force looked at other measures which could have charged out-of-town users but none of the proposals such as bond measures would have addressed this issue. The task force also considered vehicle registration increases but a recent measure failed to pass and would have had to have been done by Benton County. A local gas tax, which could have been done by the City, was not enacted because Corvallis is not along a major freeway. Oregon State University would pay into the fee but would be eligible for a credit because of its participation in Transportation Demand Management programs. Those entities that do not pay property taxes, such as schools and churches, would pay the transportation maintenance fee.

Rogers said an important point is that none of this fee will be used for construction of new streets. The fee will only be used to maintain existing streets.

VI. Information Sharing

Due to time constraints, the discussion on blind spots on multimodal paths and the need for center lines will be deferred to a later meeting.

The cleanup day for BPAC adopt-a-path segment of the multimodal path through Pioneer Park will be done June 15 at 5:30 p.m.. Volunteers are to meet at Susan Nelson's home.

Tim Brewer reported an accident involving a bicyclist at NW 9th Street and Spruce Avenue. The bicyclist was cited for improper use of a bicycle lane for traveling northbound in the southbound bicycle lane.

The Commission agreed to move the scheduled July 1, 2005 BPAC meeting to Friday, July 8, 2005.

Next meetings: July 8, 2005, at City Hall Meeting Room "D", 7:00 a.m.
August 5, 2005, at City Hall Meeting Room "D", 7:00 a.m.